**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method for processing service requests in a first device in a storage network comprising:

receiving a connection request from a sending device;

obtaining manufacture-related information associated with the sending device; and

responding to the sending device in a positive manner or in a negative manner based on a comparison of the manufacture-related information with manufacture-related information contained in an access control table,

wherein the comparison includes comparing version information included in the manufacture-related information associated with the sending device against version information included in the access control table, wherein responding in a positive manner or a negative manner depends on an outcome of the comparison,

wherein responding in [[a]] the positive manner will permit subsequent data communication between the first device and the sending device, and

wherein responding in [[a]] the negative manner will prevent subsequent data communication between the first device and the sending device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the connection request is a fabric login, wherein the manufacture-related information includes information representative of the manufacturer of the sending device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of responding to the sending device includes determining whether the manufacturer is listed in the access control table.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the access control table includes access permission information associated with the manufacturer, wherein the step of responding to the sending device in a positive manner or in a negative manner is based on the access permission information.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first device is a disk system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the sending device is a host bus adapter (HBA).

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the sending device is a switch.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the sending device is a second disk system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first device is a switch and the sending device is an HBA.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first device is a first switch and the sending device is a second switch.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first device is an HBA.

13. (Currently amended) An access method in a storage network comprising:

receiving a service request in a first storage network device, the service request originating from a second storage network device, the first storage network device being configured to perform a plurality of services;

obtaining identifying information from the service request [[that]] which is representative of an identity of the second storage network device;

based on the identifying information determining which of the services are associated with the second storage network device;

performing the service request if the service request is for a [[service]] task [[that]] which is associated with the second storage network device~~, then performing the service request~~; and

sending a negative response to the second network storage device indicating that the task will not be performed by the first storage network device if the service request is not for a [[service]] task [[that]] which is associated with the second storage network device~~, then producing an appropriate negative response, thereby indicating to the second network storage device that the service will not be performed by the first storage network device~~.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the first storage network device is a disk system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the identifying information is a source address contained in the service request.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the first storage network device is a switch.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the first storage network device is an HBA.

18. (Original) A storage network device configured to perform the method steps of claim 13.

19. (Original) The storage network device of claim 18 wherein the storage network device is a disk system.

20. (Original) The storage network device of claim 18 wherein the storage network device is a switch.

21. (Original) The storage network device of claim 18 wherein the storage network device is an HBA.

22. (Currently amended) A storage network device comprising:

a data processing component; and

a communication port, the communication port in data communication with the data processing component[[,]] and operable for communication with a second storage network device,

the data processing component comprising a memory component, the memory component configured with an access control table, the access control table comprising manufacture-related information for a first plurality of storage network devices, and

the data processing component configured to perform the method steps of:

exchanging data via the communication port, including receiving a connection request that was communicated from the second storage network device;

obtaining manufacture-related information relating to the second storage network device based on information contained in the connection request;

producing a positive or a negative response based on a comparison of the manufacture-related information relating to the second storage network device and manufacture-related information contained in the access control table, ~~the response being a positive response or a negative response~~

wherein the comparison includes comparing version information included in the manufacture-related information associated with the sending device against version information included in the access control table, wherein responding in a positive manner or a negative manner depends on an outcome of the comparison; and

exchanging data via the communication port to communicate the response to the second storage network device.

23. (Original) The storage network device of claim 22 wherein the connection request is one of a fabric login and a port login.

24. (Original) The storage network device of claim 22 wherein the comparison includes a comparison of a vendor identification relating to the second storage network device with a list of vendor identifiers in the access control table.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) The storage network device of claim 22 wherein the storage network device is a disk system.

27. (Original) The storage network device of claim 26 wherein the second storage network device is one of an HBA, a switch, and a second disk system.

28. (Original) The storage network device of claim 27 wherein the connection request is one of a fabric login and a port login.

29. (Original) The storage network device of claim 27 wherein the comparison includes a comparison of a vendor identification relating to the second storage network device and a list of vendor identifiers in the access control table.

30. (Original) The storage network device of claim 22 wherein storage network device is a switch.

31. (Original) The storage network device of claim 22 wherein storage network device is an HBA.

32-33. (Canceled)